

## **FACT SHEET**

### **FINAL AMENDMENTS TO AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR COKE OVENS: PUSHING, QUENCHING, AND BATTERY STACKS**

#### **ACTION**

- On (insert signature date) the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final amendments to the national standards that reduce air toxics from pushing, quenching, and battery stacks on coke oven batteries. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems. Coke oven batteries convert coal to coke which is used to produce iron at steel mills and foundries.
- EPA's amendments change the operation and maintenance requirements for the repair of capture systems applied to pushing emissions. The existing standards required coke plants to repair any defect or deficiency in the capture system before the next monthly inspection. These amendments require the plant to submit a written request to the permitting authority for more time to complete repairs that cannot be finished within 30 days.
- EPA is making the amendments as part of a settlement agreement with industry representatives who filed a petition for review of the 2003 national standards.

#### **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS**

- Coke oven emissions include polycyclic organic matter, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, and other air toxics that are associated with a variety of adverse health effects including cancers and disorders of the blood, central nervous system, and respiratory system.
- The amendments do not change the stringency of the existing standards. No health, environmental, energy, or cost impacts will occur as a result of the amendments.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- In the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, Congress directed EPA to use a "technology-based" approach to reduce emissions of air toxics from major sources of air pollution. Under this approach, all major sources must meet air toxic emission standards reflecting application of the maximum achievable control technology.
- The existing standards cover fugitive pushing emissions, emissions from control devices applied to pushing emissions, and emissions from quenching, soaking, and battery stacks on new and existing coke oven batteries. When fully implemented, the standards are expected to reduce air toxic emissions from these operations by nearly 300 tons per year.

- The American Iron and Steel Institute and the American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute filed a lawsuit challenging the final standards (*AISI/ACCCI Coke Oven Environmental Task Force v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, No. 03-1167, D.C. Cir.)
- EPA issued amendments as a direct final rule on October 13, 2004, along with a parallel proposal in the event significant adverse comments were filed. EPA received one significant adverse comment on the operation and maintenance provisions and withdrew those amendments. Today's amendments promulgate the provisions that were withdrawn. The other provisions in the direct final rule (on which EPA did not receive any adverse comments) became effective on January 11, 2005.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy the final amendments, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- For further information about the amendments, contact Mr. Bob Schell of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-4116 or [schell.bob@epa.gov](mailto:schell.bob@epa.gov).